

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DHA-02 ACDA-07 DODE-00 MC-02
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 SSO-00
INRE-00 NSCE-00 /073 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:GGUERRA:CLD
APPROVED BY ARA:TTODMAN
ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS
ARA:JKEANE
PM:RTITUS (PHONE)
D/HA:OJONES (PHONE)
ARA/RPP:SQUIGG (INFO)
-----260312Z 048521 /72
O 260238Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 121562

TO THEBERGE FROM TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NU, MASS

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SEVILLA-SACASA MEETS AMBASSADOR
TODMAN ON SALE OF ARMS AND AMMO TO NICARAGUA

REF: A. STATE 110196
B. MANAGUA 2357
C. MANAGUA 2346

1. AMBASSADOR SEVILLA-SACASA CALLED ON ME AFTERNOON OF MAY
24 TO CONVEY HIS CONCERN OVER A UNITED STATES' REFUSAL TO
GRANT EXPORT LICENSES TO NICARAGUA TO BUY AMMUNITIONS AND
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SMALL ARMS, ON A COMMERCIAL, CASH BASIS (REF A). SEVILLA-
SACASA SAID HE WAS NOT SO CONCERNED ABOUT THE ACQUISITION
OF THESE SMALL ARMS, AS THAT CALIBRE CAN BE PROCURED
ELSEWHERE. HE IS CONCERNED THAT THIS APPEARS TO REPRESENT
A POLICY OF HOSTILITY TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA.
HE EXPRESSED HIS LONG-LASTING FRIENDSHIP FOR THE UNITED
STATES, AND HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT CERTAIN MEMBERS OF

CONGRESS, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, MIGHT TAKE STANDS AGAINST HIS GOVERNMENT. BUT, HE SAID HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WOULD RESORT TO SUCH NEGATIVE AND HOSTILE ACTIONS.

2. I TOLD SEVILLA-SACASA THAT I WAS NOT AWARE OF THE

PARTICULAR CASES BUT THAT I DID SENSE CONCERN IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN NICARAGUA AND THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT TAKE ACTIONS WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF A LESS THAN DESIRABLE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. I ADDED THAT IT WOULD HELP A GREAT DEAL IF THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

3. AMBASSADOR SEVILLA-SACASA SAID THAT HE WOULD COMMUNICATE MY VIEWS TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HE ASKED FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT FACES A CONTINUING PROBLEM OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY AND TERRORISM, AND MUST TAKE MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THEM. WHEN THE UNITED STATES TAKES ACTIONS HOSTILE TO THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT, THE OPPOSITION IS ENCOURAGED TO INTENSIFY ITS VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. THIS, IN TURN, CAUSES THE GOVERNMENT TO BE MORE REPRESSIVE RESULTING IN A DETERIORATION OF THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. MORNING OF MAY 25 SEVILLA-SACASA CALLED TO SAY THAT NOT ONLY IS THE USG REJECTING LICENSE REQUESTS FOR ARMS FOR NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, BUT EVEN FOR PRIVATE CONFIDENTIAL

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CITIZENS (REF A).

5. FYI: THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO DEAL, WITHIN THE RESTRICTION OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1976, WITH APPLICATIONS FOR THE COMMERCIAL SALE OF ARMS AND AMMO CLEARLY INTENDED FOR PRIVATE USE TO COUNTRIES WITH HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IS BEING STUDIED IN THE DEPARTMENT. WE ARE, OF COURSE AWARE OF EMBASSY'S CONCERN AND ITS DESIRE TO RECEIVE CLARIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION (REF B & C). WE WILL KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED. VANCE

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Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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